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LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit, enclosed herewith, a letter dated 19 March 1993, by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia Mr. Hrvoje Sarinic, addressed to you.

I would be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 March 1993 from the Prime Minister of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 30 September 1992 President of the Republic of Croatia Dr. Franjo Tudjman and President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Mr. Dobrica Ćosić signed a joint declaration in Geneva on the basis of which the Yugoslav Army withdrew from Prevlaka, the southernmost part of Croatia, on 20 September 1992, in compliance with the Vance Plan. For reasons of security the Prevlaka area has been demilitarized at both sides of the state border between Croatia and Montenegro (FR Yugoslavia); the situation there is supervised by the United Nations observers.

The Republic of Croatia strictly abides by the agreed arrangements. There are no Croatian armed forced in the Prevlaka area and the law and order there is kept by a limited number of police forces.

As reported by the Croatian Ministry of Interior, the Prevlaka area is peaceful without any incidents. Reports by the United Nations observers deployed there can also be used as evidence of it.

Nevertheless - as reported by the Tanjug Yugoslav news agency - Mr. Pavle Bulatović, Defence Minister of the FR Yugoslavia, declared that in the days to come he would introduce a "series of political and military measures" for the "protection of the territorial integrity of FR Yugoslavia" due to more months of alleged artillery attacks in the Prevlaka area. A few days before this statement Dr. Radoje Kontić, Prime Minister of FR Yugoslavia, in his letter to the Security Council requesting a prolongation of UNPROFOR's mandate, referred to "continuous armed provocations by and build-up of Croatian armed forces in the border strip between Montenegro and Croatia". A representative of the Yugoslav Army, Counter-Admiral Dušan Rakić, as reported by the Montenegrin Radio, declared to the MPs in the Montenegrin town of Herceg Novi, close to Prevlaka, that "a new war with Croatia was only one step away".

Therefore, through the invention of such threats from Croatia an atmosphere is being created and preparations made for a renewed aggression at the southern part of Croatia.

The fact that Montenegro (FR Yugoslavia) is in no way threatened by Croatia was recently confirmed by the Montenegrin Minister of Interior Mr. Nikola Pejaković, who said in the Montenegrin Parliament that the "situation in Prevlaka was stable" and that "the stories about the military build-up towards Montenegro were invented". After this statement the militant MPs of the Serbian Radical Party - the leaders of which had already committed many war crimes in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina - walked out, requested that the Minister of Interior be held responsible for his words and threatened Croatia with "thousands of their volunteers".

The above mentioned statements and actions taken by the political and military leadership of FR Yugoslavia, actually of Serbia - because the military command is concentrated in the Headquarters and Supreme Council in Belgrade -

pose a serious threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Croatia as well as to the international peace and security in this part of Europe where it is already the third year in succession that an aggressive war of Serbia has been going on against two United Nations Member States, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Let me remind you, Your Excellency, that the aggression of Serbia, Montenegro and the Yugoslav Army in autumn 1991 was undertaken against the said southern part of Croatia under a similar pretext that the Croatian forces had attacked the strategically important and exceptionally well fortified Prevlaka radar-rocket base of the Yugoslav Army, although at that time the Republic of Croatia, which had freshly declared its independence and sovereignty, had virtually no armed forces of its own.

The Croatian Government wants to bring to the notice of Your Excellency as well as the United Nations Security Council that FR Yugoslavia is systematically and seriously threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Croatia - specifically, by announcing a military occupation of the Prevlaka area in the south of Croatia - through outspoken statements given by top Yugoslav political and military officials. In this connection the Croatian Government wants to remind Your Excellency and the Security Council of your commitments in such situations resulting from the United Nations Charter.

You are kindly requested, Your Excellency, to notify the United Nations Member States on the contents of this letter.

(Signed) Hrvoje ŠARINIĆ
Prime Minister